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Paris-Riceque No. 12, mear Grand Hotel, and Elecque No. 10, Boulevard des Capucines. If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for

tion wish to have rejected articles returned, they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

Union Is Strength.

The country is to be congratulated upon the almost total obliteration of the sec tional lines which for so many years marked the division of the United States into slave and free territory, and finally threatened its partition into two separate governments by the dread ordeal of civil war. The era of reconcillation, so long and carnestly desired, has happily come, and the feeling of distrust and hostility between the sections is everywhere vanishing, let us hope never to return.

Nothing is better calculated to give strength to the nation at home, increase our power and influence abroad, and add to the permanency and security of our free institutions than the restoration of cordial relations between the people of all parts of our beloved country.

The Rapid Transit Decision.

In refusing the application for a reargument of the Rapid Transit case, the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court has delivered an opinion which somewhat modifies that which it gave upon the original hearing. The court still adheres to its requirement of a bond, under section 84 of the Rapid Transit act, in the sum of \$15,000,000, but it consents that \$14,-000,000 of the amount shall be for construction and equipment only, leaving \$1,000,000 as a continuing security, applicable to construction, equipments, rents, maintenance, and operation.

The Judges have, apparently, failed to perceive the principal peril against which the bond provided for in the act was intended to protect the city. The risk that the contractor would abandon the work when it was half done, and put the city to the expense of completing it, has eclipsed in their eyes the remoter peril that the road, by whomsoever constructed, may fail to earn the interest and sinking fund on the bonds issued to pay for it. This peril is greater and more threatening than that of a default in construction, and it should be guarded against by no less a bond. Still, it is not likely that, even with the loophole that the court has now opened, the scheme will go through.

A taxpayer's suit to enjoin it, on the ground that the city's debt limit has been too nearly reached, will, beyond doubt, block it effectually.

The Security of the Scaboard,

The orders which went into effect vester day for placing garrisons in the new forts all along the Atlantic coast, will help to answer the important question whether pur seaboard defences are adequate for a war with Spain.

Directly after the disaster at Havana detachments consisting of an officer and twenty men, with one medical officer, were hurried to stations mounting highpower guns and not garrisoned; but now whole companies go to Sandy Hook, Long Island Head, Fort Mott, Fort Delaware, Sheridan's Point, Fort Caswell, Sullivan's Island, Tybee Island, Fort St Philip, and Fort Point.

Looking along the coast, we find Port land defended by a new battery, already mounted and manned at Portland Head. Great Diamond Island. Portsmouth is not likely to attract Spanish ships, but it will soon have new defences at Fort Constitution. Boston is protected by the powerful battery at Grover's Cliff, with others soon to be ready at Paddock's Island and Long Island Head, and indeed to this latter point artillerymen are now ordered, just as they were several weeks ago to Fort Winthrop. On Cushing Hill and Battery Heights, at Hull, other works will be placed. The important strategic area of Narragansett Bay is well watched both by the army and navy, Fort Adams always being well garrisoned while works are going up at Dutch Island.

New York, the greatest of prizes for any hostile fleet, is secure against any force that Spain can bring to bear. The eastern approaches will soon be dominated by the Great Gull Island defensive system now pushed rapidly along at the eastern end of Long Island Sound, while nearer New York submarine mines can destroy any ships that might get by Gull Island, Fort Slocum and Willets Point, aiding to make the protection complete. At the Sandy Hook entrance no Spanish fleet could stand the combined fire from the 12-inch, 10-inch, and 8-inch guns, and numerous 12-inch mortars, and the dynamite guns of Forts Hancock, Hamilton, and Wadsworth, to say nothing of torpedo defences. No fleet that Spain can assemble could get through the Narrows, while, if it should try to stay outside, in the deep pocket just south of Coney Island, and throw its shells from there, it would be destroyed by the mortar fire of the forts, which has been developed to an accuracy bewildering to the uninitiated. New York will also always have a defensive fleet, the Terror and Katahdin being now available.

Philadelphia, being up a river, would be looked at cautiously before approach by an attacking fleet, but in any case it has been made secure by the powerful guns mounted and manned at Finn's Point, Fort Mott and Fort Delaware take good care of that region, but in addition the League Island Navy Yard is a rendezvous for ships, the Miantonomoh and the greater part of the single-turret monitors being now in

the waters around Philadelphia. At the entrance to Chesapeake Bay is Fort Monroe, a great artillery centre, with its heavy guns, while up the Potomac is Sheridan's Point, with its modern high-power guns sweeping the river, and forming, with Fort Washington, on the Maryland shore opposite, a barrier to the national capital. The Chesapeake Bay defences, including ships that may be at the Norfolk Navy Yard, partly shield Baltimore, which will also soon be defended by batteries at North

Point and Hawkins Point. On the South Atlantic coast, which may be more exposed to any enemy operating from Havana as a secondary base, we have Wilmington adequately defended their lib-

new battery at Fort Caswell, and by the submarine mines, with their enormous charges of high explosives. Charleston is defended by Fort Moultrie, already supplied with new guns and manned, and by other works, including old Fort Sumter. At Savannah, Tybee Island is to be garrisoned at once by a battery from Fort Monroe. Key West has long been defended by a garrison, and is also the rendezvous of our principal fleet. Fort Morgan, at Mobile, is supplied with new guns, and, with Fort Gaines, commands the bay. One of the two batteries, D and G, First Artillery, hitherto at Jackson barracks, is now moved down the river to Fort St. Philip, and the other to Fort Point at Galveston, which has been supplied with modern guns. For the Pacific coast, of course, there is no fear, but San Francisco is fully fortified, Fort Baker, having received a new battery, as has also Fort Stevens at the mouth of the Columbia, while batteries at Marrowstone Point and Admiralty Point will protect Puget Sound.

When we add to this array of the new land batteries, supplemented by the older fixed forts and by a most thorough and destructive system of torpedo defences, the fact that our fleet is far superior to Spain's and operates in its own waters, where it can be aided by numerous auxiliaries, and when we further consider that an aggressive movement toward Havana will at once require the presence of Spain's ships there, it will be seen that no trouble need be borrowed as to the adequacy of our seaboard defence. Work, day and night, on the forts, guns, and carriages, and the purchases of all needed equipment, allowed by the \$50,-000,000 law, are rapidly perfecting it.

Good English and Organic Law

In another column a cultivated and an ingenious correspondent objects to the assertions lately made by THE SUN that English is made by the best authors who write it, and that a question of English is decided by the usage of English writers of the first rank. "English," says our correspondent, " is made by all the people who speak it, and a question of English is to be determined by reference to its organic laws." With the first of these propositions we substantially agree. English has been made, and is made, by all the people who have spoken or speak or have written or write it. The English language is a vast receptacle of words and phrases to which almost every day adds something. The English language, as we understand it, consists of every word that has been used or is now used by any speaker or writer of that language. The obsolete or decayed word that has died from the spoken speech is not wholly dead, even if it lives only in glossaries. The latest-born bit of slang, which has not been and may never be adopted into the written language, is also a part of English, as are the new terms to which new necessities and uses give occasion. A vast and catholic shop is the English language, always open for new business, yet containing in its storerooms and dusty garrets thousands and thousands of words unused and out of fashion.

New words take their place almost before we know it. Old words drop out insensibly or are revived and received again; continual change and motion of the living speech, continued immobility of most of what may be called the worn-out part of the language. All is English, but not all is good English. How do we find out what is good English? We know of no other method than to consult writers of good English. In them we shall get good English. In the best of them we shall get the best English.

"We cannot elevate any given number or rank of writers into a court of language," says our correspondent, "choosing some and casting aside others, without ourselves first assuming the authority we delegate." Well, how would be determine a question of pronunciation, for instance? He would not put too much trust in dictionaries. He would depend, would he not, in the last resort upon the usage cultivated men and women? He would make a little court of the cultivated men while before long another will be ready on | and women of his acquaintance, and abide by their decision. In somewhat the same way he would depend, consciously or unconsciously, upon the best English authors for the best usage of English. They use no hieroglyphical and esoteric tongue. There is no important difference between the spoken and the written language. The writers are the registers of the language. as our correspondent admits. No "given number of writers" need be supposed. We take it for granted that a man who tries to mind saturated with good English. In most cases the Sprachgefühl is not a gift, but the result of cultivation.

Every great writer has his share in making as well as recording the language, but granting that the great writers are but the abstract and brief chronicles of the language of their time, whom else shall we consult as to a question of good English? Our correspondent argues very ably that a question of English is to be determined by reference to its organic laws," Into the region of organic laws we must decline

to follow him. The organic laws of language remind us of the philosophy of history. These are transcendental regions of cloudy fairyland. Give us something a little more concrete and definite.

A Relic of Reform.

Whatever may be the gravity and whatever the legal force of the charges against 'THE" ALLEN of "pool selling, bookmaking, bets, and wagers," under the prohibition of the Penal Code, there can be no doubt that the procedure adopted on Tuesday by Capt. CHAPMAN, a relic of the "readministration, was of a sort to bring law and its enforcement in New York into contempt.

ALLEN is the ostensible proprietor of the West Side Club, situated a few hundred feet south of Jefferson Market on Sixth avenue, and an establishment which the Police Department asserts is not a veritable club, but a place of resort for those making wagers upon the results of races in contravention of the law on the subject. Upon conviction of such an offence there is ample legal machinery for punishing the offenders, but CHAPMAN arrested not only those charged with the offence, but also other persons in the building to the number of 196. The "raid" was begun at 4:15 and until 7 o'clock in the evening the peace and tranquillity of the neighborhood was disturbed by the rattle of patrol wagons, the moving to and fro of squads of police and prisoners, the appearance of "reserves" from all stations, and sundry demonstrations of disorder by a large crowd, blocking an important thoroughfare. Of the prisoners, 138 were taken to one police station, and, that being crowded, 58 were carried to another, and a great majority of the ar-

erty until the next morning, when they were arraigned before Judge SIMMS. There being no charge against them, they were all discharged, with the exception of ALLEN and his employees, solely; but such a disposition of the matter left without any redress those who had been arrested, though they had suffered from a clearly unwarranted use of police power by the overzealous CHAPMAN. It is obvious that no regulation of the Police Department of New York can or could justify the arrest of any person unless on probable cause that some crime or offence has been committed, and in this case the decision of the Judge was that there was no such justification except perhaps in respect to those employed in the establishment.

It had been popularly supposed that with the close of the "reform" administration such grotesque and spectacular proceedings as those which gave ephemeral notoriety to CHAPMAN, when Captain of another precinct, would come to an end, and that the police business of New York city would be conducted in a seculy manner.

"The Hero of the Occasion." We learn from the always instructive columns of the Evening Post that the true bulwark of the nation's safety against the bloodthirsty Dons is neither our fleet nor our coast defence fortifications, but a retired statesman who lives at Princeton, N. J.,

and is bigger than any battleship. The manner in which the Hon. GROVER CLEVELAND'S prescience and patriotic firmness saved the country from Spain is clearly explained by the Evening Post:

"One of the most courageous and patriotic acts his illustrious career was the issue of bonds for \$100,000,000 under the law, in 1886, in order to proure money to save the national credit and ward off

money, there would be none in the Treasury to-day, except what has been received from the Pacific rati-roads. The vote of \$50,000,000 for national defence would have been a brutum fulmen, unless the President had been authorized to borrow. It by the sale of bonds. The stilly boasting about it as 'surplus' is nurely mendacious. It is horrowed money left over rom Mr. CLEVELAND'S Administration. It is right and proper to use it, as it is being used, for purposes of national defence; it is right and proper to give the President discretion in spending it, but it is wrong to lie about it."

That is why the Evening Post styles the Hon. GROVER CLEVELAND "the real hero of the occasion." He is worth to us, continues the same profound authority on human ironclads, "more than half a dozen The short-sighted and the silly supposed,

in deference to the Hon, GROVER CLEVE-

LAND'S statements, that the Hon. GROVER CLEVELAND was borrowing money "to protect the gold reserve." The half-wise pelieved that he was borrowing money to cure the chronic deficiency engendered by his and Prof. Wilson's tariff. But Mr. CLEVELAND knew, and probably the editor of the Evening Post knew all the time, that the purpose of the bond issues of 1895 and 1896 was to prepare this nation for the war emergency Mr. CLEVELAND foresaw in the future.

Better than half a dozen battleships? We should say so. Such a statesman is worth more to us-more than half a dozen lighthouse tenders armed with 10-inch

Beating the Charter.

When His Honor Mayor VAN WYCK Se lected for the head of the Park Board a Commissioner, Mr. CLAUSEN, whose previous record in the department made his reappointment an affront to the owners of the parks, and another Commissioner, of the name of MOEBUS, who might have been the prize in a search for a man without qualifications, the hope that the new Administration entered office with a sound sense of its responsibilities was badly shaken. A few days after, however, came the fair words of Mr. RICHARD CROKER, spoken to the assembled Tammany men on Jan. 21:

"Let no man be unfaithful to his trust, for should he be he will not find a more unrelenting and vigorous prosecutor than will be the Tammany organization. Should any man attempt to induce you by threats or otherwise to disregard your oaths of office and the interests of the people, report the matter to the organization, and be he ever so influential, he will be punished. The organization is on trial."

This speech found the Administration still possessed of a chance to prove in the matter of the Park Department that Mr. CROKER'S words were not mere show. The landscape architect was equipped by the charter with the strength of the law for the protection of the city's park land against the eccentricity, indulgence, and abuse of vandalism and ignorance. His power of veto, upheld by allegiance to his professionwrite good English will have to have his al reputation and an artist's self-respect, was to be a bulwark against schemes which trained knowledge could not just i. fy. Selected in good faith, the landscape architect would have been, necessarily, an expert in whose personal character and professional standing the public could feel secure against maladministration of the parks and the misapplication of funds

placed at the disposal of the Park Board. The Park Board, however, has named as landscape architect Mr. JOHN DE WOLF, a man practically without standing among men of that profession, and far more close ly identified with the lower ranks of politics than with work among parks. He is a tool for any political or personal scheme that may be laid before him. He has nothing of professional reputation to lose; and so, in appointing him, the Park Board has not furnished to the public the intended bond for his good behavior. The charter's carefully arranged provision for such a bond has been nullified, and the parks are at the complete mercy of a Commission in which CLAUSEN and MOEBUS are the ruling spirits. To preserve his reputation for political

The Hon, CY SULLOWAY of New Hampshire is the author of this bill, now before the House Committee on Rivers and Harbors: "That the Secretary of War be, and he hereby is, authorized and directed to submit estimate of the cost of removing the ledge at Pull-and-be-damned Point, in Portsmouth barbor, New Hampshire, so far

power and straight talking, we advise Mr.

CROKER to disayow the words quoted above.

as the same is an obstruction to navigation." Remove the ledge if the same is an obstruc tion to navigation; but let the name remain ! New Hampshire and New England cannot afford to let that go. As a moral stimulus and a spur to energy it is probably worth more than all the commerce which the profane ledge obstructs.

It is proper to note the circumstance that just ten years ago to-day genius composed the immortal poem which enterprise published ten years ago to-morrow:

"This bliz Knocks biz."

The planets were in their proper houses and all the aspects were favorable and fair, The poet took his wings out of the bandboxes and fanned himself into the highest heaven of ong. His name, his lovely name, was and is PERCY BYRON QUINN, "CHOPIN," he cried. in what far sphere of fancy heard thou this, that seraphim supreme might croon?"

CHOPIN gave no answer, and the poet wen on with interrogations. "What boon of pre-science," he shouted, "by inner light conferred did'st bid thee bark on fair night's noon?" CHOPIN didn't get a chance to say a word, for PERCY BYRON QUINN was talking again:

"Knew thou the dream note of that blithesome bird That makes the dawn?" PERCY BYRON QUINN is the most remarkable

poet in Tennessee, with the exception of the Hon. BOB TAYLOR. A cause of general satisfaction would be

the placing of a warship under the command of

Captain George Dwight Sigsber.

We ask the Hon, and Col. JOHANNES MENTUM, the first warrior and statesman of Kentucky, to open his mouth and shut his eyes when he comes upon this incredible, irreverent passage in the Memphis Commercial Appeal: "At present the Kentucky Legislature seems to have acquired the good will and fixtures of the

Kansas Assembly, and to be more sorts of a darned

fool than any other law-making body on earth."

This is a time for calmness. The Kentucky Legislature is beloved by all who love it as the greatest wisdom trust since the time of the even Wise Masters. Count twenty-five; count wenty-five hundred and twenty-five; count wenty-five hundred thousand and twenty-five wenty-fivetimes, Col. MENTUM. The Kentucky Legislature is above attack. Pity and forgive the envy of Tennessee.

Mr. DEBS's advice is to read, study, think, ote. - Boston Transcript. It is unfortunate that Mr. DEBS is incapable of taking his own advice.

The Hon, BATH HOUSE JOHN has an international reputation. He is one of the chief conuments of Chicago. Last week the Oxford Union discussed the question "Has BATH House JOHN or COONEY the Fox Done the More for the Development of Chicago," While the discussion was going on Mr. Joun was not idle. According to his enemies, he is using the empty boats along the river as lodging houses and places of refuge for the patriots whose votes he wishes to have in the municipal election in April. Ilis enemies misunderstand him. He wishes to relieve the congestion of the crowded districts and to provide the empty boats with trustworthy janitors.

The Hon. BENJAMIN TILLMAN, the dis pensary statesman, faced a rapt audience at Baltimore and remarked:

"I believe in free silver at 16 to 1 or bust!" It is depressing to believe that the Hon. BEN-JAMIN TILLMAN has to "bust," but he has been detonating direfully for about thirteen years. No constitution can endure these frequent explosions.

WASHINGTON, March 11.—These rapid-fire guns constitute what is known as the auxiliary defence for the fortifications, and are a macerial assistance to the big guns. They also would be of invaluable assistance in keeping the enemy's ships from the vicinity of submarine mines and other obscured works of defence by maintaining a constant fire over such places.—Evening Post.

This nonsense was not LARRY's own. It be-

W 4 KS.

The Records of the United States and of Other Countries.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: It may not be inopportune at this time, when certain timorous ones are expressing doubts as to the result of a war between the United States and Spain, to look up our fighting record, as the sporting fraternity would put it.

From the Declaration of Independence to the present day, a period of 123 years, the United States has waged five wars, not to speak of the numerous Indian and border skirmishes, and in every one our flag has come out on top. Can as much be said of any other nation during the

England has had during that period, roughly speaking, six wars, not including its fights with the natives of South Africa and northern India and the opium war in China. Of these six, two-the American Revolution and the War of 1812-resulted in victory for her opponents. In other words, to again use a sporting term, she lost two out of six events.

France had also six wars, not counting her fights in northern Africa and China; of these she lost two—the war with the allied powers and the France-Prussian war.

the Franco-Prussian war.
Prussia out of her five wars waged during the
same period lost two.
Austria lost three and gained two.
Russia lost two and gained two.
Spain has lost every war she has undertaken
during that period, unless her ten years' war

Spain has lost every war she has undertaken during that period, unless her ten years' war with Coba should be placed to her credit as a victory. So much for the record. In analyzing it we find that in most of the cases in which a European nation has won it has been in alliance with someother nation, as in the war of the allied powers against Napoleon, the Crimean war, and the Franco-Italian-Austrian war.

In one case only did the United States have an ally, and that was in the Revolution. Even then the war was nearly half over when France came to our assistance with a fleet and a few thousand troops as an offset to the Hessian troops employed by England. In our two wars with England the United States was tremendously outclassed in all that goes to make the fighting efficiency of a nation, except bravery and endurance. In our war with the Barbary States the odds were not so greatly in our favor as they appear at first blush; we were fighting, thousands of wiles from home, a naval power that had exacted tribute from every marritime power in the world and was secretly backed by the meney and moral support of Great Britain. In the Mexican war the advantages were all with us.

In the Mexican war the average with us.

The war of secession was the greatest war of modern times. In that war the old flag completed its unbroken record of victory, but the victors have shared the fruits of victory with the vanquished and the nation is stronger to day than ever before to defend its flag against all comers. In the face of this record how can any same person doubt the result of a war with Spain!

PREBLE TUCKER. New York, March 11.

United States Iron.

To THE ROITOR OF THE SUS-Sir: The returns given low indicate clearly the development of the tron industry in Canada, Great Britain, and the United states for the past twenty years, and the ability at the present time of the United States to compete upon equal terms with Great Britain in outside

In 1577 Canada produced 13,500 net tons of pie ron, Great Britain 7,401,704 tons, and the United States 2,314,5%5 tons. In 1895 Canada produced 31,692 tons, Great Britain 8,627,574 tons, and the United States 10,579,865 tons.

From 1882 to 1886 the average value of the annual

imports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof into Canada was \$15,050,240. Of this amount Great Britain supplied 58½ per cent., the United States 39½ per cent. ad other countries 2 per cent. From 1889 to 1893 the value of the average imports was \$14,194,543, of which Great Britain sup-

From 1889 to 1893 the value of the average imports was \$14,194,543 of which Great Britain supplied 56 per cent. the United States 30½ per cent. and all other countries 4½ per cent.

For the year 1896 Great Britain supplied 35½ per cent. the United States 50 per cent, and all other countries 5½ per cent. It will be observed that in 1896 the United States supplied a larger per centings from the United States to the chief commercial centres of Canalia will average quite as much as ocean freights from Liverpool or Glasgow to Canada. There is not any reason why, if we had direct and regular communication with South American ports, we should not secure as large a percentage of the from steel, and hardwars trade of South American countries as we have of that of Canada. With the Nicaragua Canal completed, we can secure the lon's stare in countries bordering upon the Parific Ocean.

The profit to the country upon 50 per cent of the

been. The profit to the country upon 50 per cent. of the ron and steel and manufactures thereof consumed a countries located upon the Pacific will pay 4 per cent. interest upon the cost of the canal when consisted, and in fifty years return the principal in iddition.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: It seems that every day one picks up your paper there is a heading on first page, "More United States Mail Mutilated" or Another Accident to Paramatic Mail Tube," or something to this effect. I, as a business man and one sending checks, notes and other valuable matter through the mails every

and other valuable matter through the mails every day, would carnestly protest against any further experiments with "pneumatic tubes." or other contrivances of a like mature, which are liable to subject the public to the annoyance, inconvenience and loss which its being done almost every day.

The mail service of New York is without doubt very prompt and efficient and the authorities are to be assumed in the zeal they show in trying any thing that would prove to make it more so. But there is a limit, and would it not be better to make experiments with something less valuable than the mercantile mails of lower New York?

Knowing that I am supported in this view by my numerous business friends of the districts most likely to be affected by these losses, I carnestly pray that your valuable paper will use its influence against any further attempts to send mail through a gas pipe.

Thus BULDING.

WHAT IS AHEAD? The Administration and the Country Prepared

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: It has, of course, not escaped your readers that a great change has taken place here on the part of the Administration, and that Congress has, with almost unprecedented unanimity, taken a decided step forward in regard to the Cuban question, as well as to our relations with Spain. Immodiately after the destruction of the battleship Maine Capt. Sigabee, with rare discretion, cautioned a suspension of judgment until the facts could be ascertained. The President, the Congress, and the Cabinet concurred; and at first everybody believed, or professed to believe, that the loss of the ship was most probably due to an internal accident. A naval Court of Inquiry. composed of prudent and able officers, was sent to Havana to make a thorough investigation and report. They have been dilligently engaged n prosecuting their investigation, both at the scene of the disaster and at Key West, and now hey have returned to Havana.

for Rither Peace or War.

So far as the public knows, they have expressed no opinion. They have certainly given out none. Yet for the last ten days the conviction has been steadily growing that the battleship was blown up from the outside and not from the nside, and that the actuating cause was maliclous and not innocent.

How far the survey and inspection of the divers and experts sustain this view need not now be considered. Judgment may be prudently reserved a while longer. As Capt. Sigsbee has intimated very strongly, it is better to know than to guess in such cases, and fortunately it cannot be very much longer till everything the court has learned must become public.

Meanwhile another curious aspect of the case resses itself into notice. Shortly after the accident Mr. Roosevelt, as acting Secretary of the Navy, asked Congress, by a letter duly authorized, for authority to lay in an extra supply of coal, and to enlist extra men to man the reserve ships; but, instead of complying with his reasonable request, he was notified he could not have special legislation for either of his requirenents, and it was pretty well understood that Mr. Speaker Reed and the Chairmen of the appropriate committees of the two houses of Congress did not believe either the coal or the men were needed at that time. At all events, nothing was done, and there the matter of legis lation rested, presumably with the consent of the President and the Secretary of the Navy.

A few days later it was intimated by Mr. Du-Bose, the Spanish Charge d'Affaires, that Gen. Lee was no longer acceptable as Consul-General at Havana and that it might add to the excitement if the provisions for the reconcentrados should be sent to Matanzas in American men-ofwar. It will be observed that the intimation as to Ben. Lee was fully within the right of the Spanish Government and could not be fairly considered as an act of hostility or even of serious discourtesy, but it was promptly repelled by the President and as promptly recalled.

After a day or two of considerable, but probe oly unnecessary, excitement, made mostly by the newspapers, the President called a conference of the appropriate Secretaries and leading committeemen, all Republicans, and, curiously enough, with none of the opposition among them. whereupon a special appropriation bill was agreed upon, promptly framed, and, without depate or discussion, was passed unanimously through both houses. Two new regiments of artillery had already been authorized, and now the pavy is to have its extra men and coal, and the President \$50,000,000 to spend at his own discretion in upholding the national honor

Everybody here is in favor of the legislation. It is wise and timely and has been passed with patriotic and absolutely non-partisan unanimity. No fault, expressed or implied, has been found with it, because all sensible men concede that whatever may be the ultimate demand for this money, at the present stage of the crisis, it is the strongest possible influence for the maintenance of peace. Later it may be quite as potential for carrying on war.

All this raises the question, what has happened to make such measures necessary and to carry them through Congress without a single opposing vote? It is conceded that the Naval Court of Inquiry has not completed its labors nor sent in its report and findings. What then has happened to so suddenly change the peaceful aspect of affairs? What new light has the President received that he didn't have last week ? Can it be that the conviction has reached his mind that the naval court will find that the

battleship was destroyed by causes operating outside of her I If so, this is an ample reason for the measures which have been enacted. Can it be that whether the accident was due

to exterior or interior causes, to innocent or his mind to put an end to a state of affairs in Cuba under which such accidents are possible! Or, finally, is it simply his conviction that the authorities to pacify Cuba are conceded to be mind to put an end to the intolerable condition of affairs in that unhappy island without further delay!

It is not possible for any outsider to do more than state these facts and sak these questions, It seems probable that whatever may be the further facts, or however these questions may be answered, the decision as to whether peace shall be maintained, or war be commenced, will depend mainly upon the Spraish Government.

In any event, it no seems certain that our Government will be fully prepared for whatever the future has in store for it, and that it will still remain within the power of the President to maintain peace and secure an ample indemnity for any less inflicted upon the country by either accident or design, unless the Spanish Government shall take some action which will make war inevitable.

It is conceded on all hands that, whatever may be the finding of the Court of Inquiry, it cannot be much longer delayed. It is also conceded that the failure of a favorable conclusion to leak out before this time probably foreshadows a verdict unfavorable to the theory of an inside accident, and that the business interests of the country are making their representatives in Congress understand that even a few weeks' war is better than an indefinite continuance of our troubled relations with Spain. WASHINGTON, D. C., March 11.

NEW FRANCISCAN MONASTERY. Ground Broken for the Institution to Wash Ington.

WASHINGTON, March 11,-Ground was broken o-day for the foundation of the Franciscan Monastery to be erected in this city as an affiliated institution of the Catholic University, The monastery is to be a huge brick building. according to the severe rule of the order, which prescribes plainness in all things. It will be two and one-half stories arranged in a square of 200 fect. The first story is to be devoted to the cells of the monks and the second will be used for the halls and lecture rooms. The dormer half story will be used for extra sleeping rooms for those who are not under the monastic rule, but who may be domfelled in the building either as students or attached for the time being to the institution. The parallel-gram will be arranged on the basis of two sets gram will be arranged on the basis of two sets of twenty-foot rooms and an inner hall of ten feet, giving a courtyard of 100 feet square.

This foundation of the Franciscans is a new departure in Catholic educational institutions. Friar Godfrey Schilling, a native of Prussia, will be the prior. Its superior will be Catholic custodian of the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem. The novices will be drawn from the countries of Heighum, Austria, Italy and Spain. They will be educated as missioners for South America, Africa and the Holy Land. The cornerstone will be laid by Mgr. Martinelli some time in May. Inmediately after this ceremony Friar Schilling will go to Europe to select an able corps of teachers from the Franciscan order. The scholastic work will begin on Oct. 1.

A Former Congressman's Visit by flurgiars. From the St. Louis Globe Democrat.

St. Joseph. Mo., March 7.—Ex-Congressman D. D. Burnes, one of the best-known men in Missouri, and whose family has prominent St. Louis souri, and whose family has prominent St. Louis connections, had a thrilling experience with burgiars early this morning. One of the robbers held a butcher knife at the throat of the millionaire and compelled him to remain in bed while his companion louted the house. Mr. Burnes is a son of former Congressman James N. Burnes and was formerly a law partner of ex-Gov. Slias Woodson.

WHAT IS GOOD ENGLISH? The Question as Discussed by a Controversta

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Your editorial notes on English are good reading. They are not only interesting in the information they contain, but they are also very entertaining by their display of the skill and certainty with which you are able to justify your choice and

arrangement of words whenever questioned. Nevertheless, apropos of your editorial, "In Our Midst," of yesterday morning I beg leave to question the correctness of your point of view without necessarily championing the cause of the particular phrase and its kindred therein discussed. In effect, you say that "English is made by the best authors who write it," and that a question of English is decided by the 'usage" of English " writers of the first rank."

Against these two propositions I offer the folowing: English is made by all the people who speck it, and a question of English is to be determine t by reference to its organic laws. As to the first proposition: There was English

before there was writing, and writing had been used a long time before it had any effect on English. It is only since the development of printing has brought books within the reach of the masses, that writing has had any considera ble part in the making of English. The principal benefit it has conferred upon the language is uniformity, but it has also served to retard its progress by stereotyping its forms. In the days of few books, spelling kept pace with pronunciation, and the natural tendency of the language to throw off inflexions was unchecked. The great increase in the use of books consequent on the development of printing was sud len, and having caught the then phase of the language has done much to prevent a departure therefrom. Compare the great change in the 200 years between Chaucer and Shakespeare to the slight change in the 300 years between Shakespeare and our own day.

Were it not for the general use of books we

should now be spelling plough, p-l-o-w, without the slightest sense of vandalism, and "you was" would probably be as good English as "you were." But, though writing retards, it cannot prevent the growth of the language, which is the evidence of its life, without which it would be dead. English is still being made, but it is made in the speech of the people and not in the writing even of writers of the first rank, although in their speech writers of the first rank play their proper part in the making. The writing of a given period does not make the progress of its language, but simply records it; and as a book is a dead thing, so the living language has passed beyond it, however imperceptibly, on the very day of its writing. Therefore, Shakespeare may be appealed to at most only to decide what was good English in his day. Your own use of Shakespeare to justify "some few and other words and phrases you have discussed has been very effective, but you would not acquiesce in the use of "moe" because it appears in Shakespeare; yet if he is authority for the one, he is authority for the other. The fact is that you, a speaker and writer of the living English of the present, are the authority you depend on, and you would not and do not quote Shakespeare to sustain any form or arrangement of words which your very trustworthy feeling for language tells you does not have present sanction.

We cannot elevate any given number or rank of writers into a court of language, choosing some and casting aside others, without ourselves first assuming the authority we delegate. You say "it makes a vast difference whether Mr. Thackeray or Mr. Hall Caine is authority for a phrase" which is indeed true; but has not the power which diff rentiates between Thackeray and Hall Caine greater authority than either of them? And what is that power? Is it not the knowledge or the feeling of those who, like you, recognize the good English of Thackeray not because Thackeray wrote it, but because it is good English?

That a language possesses definite laws of growth and does not proceed by haphazard any more than anything else in nature. I presume, will not be questioned. Since the beginning, these laws have operated unconsciously; but it does not follow that they may not bereezen our ever active. An appeal to them is an appeal to a living Judge; and while a recognition of them is not necessary to guide aright the man who is gifted in their speech writers of the first rank play their proper part in the making.

scientific expression.

These laws do not change and are ever active. An appeal to them is an appeal to a living Judge; and while a recognition of them is not necessary to guide aright the man who is gifted with Sprachecfuht, yet when his dictum is questioned it is only by their support that he can be finally justified. The "best writers" are "authority" only so far as they can conform to these laws, and it is by an unconscious feeling for them that the best writers are able to maintain their title as such.

A word or phrase in the mouths of the people is not to be condemned simply because it does not appear in the works of the best writers. It must be judged by the organic law. Before ever it is received as literature it may be said to be good English if it conforms to that law; and if it be good English by that law it will live and become established in speech, and sooner or later will infallibly appear in the work of the best writers.

To ridicule a word or phrase simply because.

or later will infallibly appear in the work of the best writers.

To ridicule a word or phrase simply because it is not yet accepted by the best writers is neither reasonable nor safe. It is better to judge language on its merits by the laws of its own life, than by the voice of any number of judges whom we ourselves interpose between the language and its laws.

The authority of the best writers in language is the authority of the virtuous man in morals, that of example. But language, like morals, depends upon deeper and wider principles than the habit of an individual. Why stop short at an ephenicial judgment by example when we may reach by principle a judgment for all time!

New YORK, March S.

E. P. Allen.

TEN THOUSAND RABBITS SLAIN. The Result of a Shotgun Drive on the Pacific Const.

From the San Francisco Chronicle FRESNO, March 5.-The first rabbit drive of the season in this county took place to-day. As compared with the great drive of March 12, 1892, and the still bigger drive of May 5, 1894, the attendance was small, but both these affairs had been well advertised in the valley

affairs had been well advertised in the valley counties and the numbers of those who took part in the drive hore some proportion to the rabbits slaughtered.

To-day it was strictly a county drive, and while the expanded line was scarcely five miles long at 9 A. M., the number of rabbits in front of the contracted line at 1 P. M. ranged high up in the thousands. The corral was located at the intersection of roads leading west and south, about four miles west of the village of Oleander, nearly ten miles southwest of Fresno and on the Smith ranch.

It was what is known as a shofgun rabbit drive, the slaughter of the pests commencing as soon as the contracting lines came in sight of the corral. The rabbits were unusually numerous and not one in ten broke through the lines. In this respect the drive contrasted sharply with the big drives of 1892 and 1894, where almost as many rabbits escaped as were slaughtered. Shotzuns were used with effect and the result was that when the corral was reached only a small number of the great round-up remained for slaughter.

Estimates of the number killed differ widely because of the continuous destruction of the pests by gun fire on the way to the corral, but it is probable that the ranbit population around Washington colony has been reduced by not less than 10,000.

HIS YARN CAME BACK. He Told It to a Graphophone. That to a Telephone, and That to Him. From the Galesbury Evening Mail.

W. E. Terry of Galesburg has been having considerable fun lately with his brother-in-law, Dr. Hull of Kewanee, and perpetrated a joke on him the other day that was as unique as original. Mr. Terry has a graphophone, and a few days ago sent the machine to Kewanee, where ome of his relatives talked into it. Dr. Hall happened to find some extra cylinders, and so he taiked a fake story of one of Mr. Terry's big deer shots in the northern woods last fall.

Of course the owner of the machine was greatly astonished when he was trying the cylinders after the graphophone had been returned to him in hearing such a tale about himself. Recognizing the voice, he determined to have some sport with it. Yesterday he called up Dr. Hall by telephone in his office in Kewance and said that a man wanted to speak with him.

After come further preliminary remarks bethe two ends of the line, Mr. Terry placed the mouth of the graphophone near the drum of the telephone and turned the switch. Hoding the receiver to his car, he could hear the astonished exchamations of the doctor, at the other end of the line, who was listening to his own voice thirty miles away. He agreed that the joke was on him and offered to give up if the fairy tale could only be suppressed. happened to find some extra cylinders, and so he

From the Topeka State Journal.

Young Cameron, the son of Noah Cameron, who has been living in China for some years and who has adopted the custom of that country, is sgain at home in Lawrence. Three years ago he was here, but did not like America and returned to the land of the pigtail. He still affects the clothing of the Chinese and wears his cue like a native. He is proud of his occentricity and enjoys the attention that his pseuliar appearance clicits.

THE "FOICE" TACKLES CORNELL University Becan't Mind, but Town Men

ITHACA, N. Y., March 11.-The edition of the New York Voice, the organ of the Prohibitionists, arrived by the morning mail in Ithaca, The few persons who are subscribers to the paper were startled to find an assault upon Cornell University, and incidentally upon Ithaca and several of its citizens, similar to that recently made by the Poice upon Yale and New Haven, The article was under a flaring head, which said:

"Cornell nearly as bad as Yale-How the nojurisdiction attitude of the Cornell faculty and the example of beer guzzling Cornell professors, who vote that saloons be licensed, have fastened drinking customs upon the undergraduates in spite of the manly attitude of a minority of the faculty-Disgraceful orgies attendant upon class and club functions-How the Raines law has multiplied the number of student saloens-Social evil rampant-President Schurman habitually antagonizes temperance measures—An exkeeper of a 'blind pig' opening a \$25,000 students' bar, and President Schurman ex-presses great glee at the outlook."

The article gives the sentiment and position of the Cornell faculty exactly by thus quoting

"The position of the faculty may be summed up in this: As a body they do not consider the drinking habits of students except in cases

up in this: As a body they do not consider the drinking habits of students except in cases where a boy commits some drunken excess that demands attention. Then the faculty act and act promptly.

With this as its text the Voice begins a tirade of personal abuse against officers of the university, the citizens of Ithaca and its public places. "President Schurman," it says, "speaks with great force against free silver, but, like President Patton of Princeton, stutters when he approaches the liquor problem." President Schurman is also taken to task for frankly saying to the convention of the Loyal Temperance Legion that he did not want his children to be informed of the evils of intemperance, and for saying several years ago, when a no-license fight was on, that it "was an imperacticable movement."

Prof. Wilcox is attacked because of a lecture in which he said that "moderate drinking does not lead to intemperance." The faculty of the university as a whole is also attacked, and the students are accused of continuous drunken carousals. The innocent annual cider raid is exaggerated into a "yearly drunk." Reference is made to allered houses of ill-fame in language of the grossest indecency. The "Town and Gown" Club, whose membership is made up of the best people of the city, including several of the professors and their wives, is termed "The Famous Cornell Drunkary," and the article attempts to describe alleged "drunken orgies" there which are absolutely without foundation.

Relative to the attempt upon the university, the Voice is safe from reprisals. When interviewed by The Sun reporter, President Schuman said:

"The purpose of the article is so apparent that I do not deem it worth any particular notice or answer."

But the attack on private citizens will result differently. According to the most prominent

This purpose of the article is so apparent that I do not deem it worth any particular notice or answer."

But the attack on private citizens will result differently. According to the most prominent lawyers in the city, the Voice has subjected itself to suits for libel and slander that must be defended with slight chance of success. It takes occasion to call the Ithaca Hotel, which is just being remodelled, "a new students' drunkary," and makes a venomous personal attack upon the proprietors. It refers to them as "notorious characters," and in other uncomplimentary terms, and calls Mr. Casey, "ex-dive keeper, gambler, cheat," and accuses him of breaking up a family. D. Connelly, a lessee of the Alhambra, owned by Mr. Casey, is also attacked, as is his hotel. Mr. Casey said to night that he would begin three separate actions against the Voice to-morrow morning, one for slander, another for statements damaging to the New Ithaca Hotel, and the third for damages because of the attack on the Alhambra, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Casey's partner, will also sue for damages for defamation of character, and Mr. Connelly, lessee of the Alhambra, will bring an action for damages for deteriorating the value of his investment. Slocum & Faber, grocers, who were also attacked, will also sue. Ex-District Attorney Jesse H. Jennings, who was also attacked, will begin suit to-morrow. The suits aggregate over \$200,000.

M'KINLEY DINES PRINCE ALBERT. The Belgian Heir Presumptive Entertained at the White House.

WASHINGTON, March 11.-Prince Albert. the heir presumptive to the throne of Belgium, was presented to the President at noon to-day. He was accompanied to the Executive Mansion by Count Lichtervelde, the Minister of Belgium to the United States; the Belgian Court Physician, Dr. Charles Melis; Lieut.-Col. Jungbluth of the Belgian Army, his aidede-camp, and by Col. Bingham, U. S. A., Superintendent of Public Buildings and Grounds, Some difficulty was encountered by the royal party in gaining admission to the room where the resident was to receive them, for a long table, which had been set in the corridor for the din ner to the Prince to-night, blocked the way completely. Under the circumstances it was necessary to conduct the distinguished visitors to the rear of the Executive Mansion and admit them by the back door. After a pleasant exthe Prince, the royal visitor, with Minister Lichtervelde and Col. Bingham, joined the President for a drive about the city in the President's carriage.

President and Mrs. McKinley entertained Prince Albert at dinner at the White Prince Albert at dinner at the White House this evening. The table was set in the inner corridor, which is always used at large functions of this sort. The Marine Band was stationed in the vestibule, and the whole lower floor of the manslon was thrown open, brilliantly lighted, and profusely decorated with flowers and flags. The following were present:

The President and Mrs. McKinley, M. Le Conte de Rethy (Prince Albert), the Vice-President and Mrs. Hobart, the Secretary of the Treasury and Mrs. Gage, the Secretary of the Treasury and Mrs. Gage, the Secretary of the Treasury and Mrs. Gage, the Secretary of the Navy and Miss Long, the Secretary of the Navy and Miss Long, the Secretary of the Interior and Miss Bilss, the Secretary of Agriculture and Miss Wilson, the Minister of Reigium and Countess de Lichterveide, M. le Colonel Jungbluth, Mr. Maurice Joesteus, the Ambassador of Great Britain, the Ambassador of Great Ritain, the Great Ritain, House this evening. The table was set in

COURT-MARTIAL FOR MR. MENOCAL. Charges Based on the Defects of the New Naval Dry Dock in Brooklyn.

Civil Engineer Anectio G. Menocal, U. S. N. will be put on trial before a court-martial at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, on March 15 on charges of carelessness, negligence, and inefficiency is connection with the construction of the defec tive dry dock at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Mr. Menocal returned from Nicaragua last Wednesday and immediately notified the Navy Depart ment that he would be ready at any time that

ment that he would be ready at any time may might be set.

The following officers will make up the court Commodore Henry L. Howison, President; Capt. William C. Wise, Capt. William M. Folcer, Capt. Charles S. Cotton, Capt. Henry F. Pickings, Commander Henry M. Manney, Commutater Morris H. S. Mackenzie, Commander Albert S. Snow, and Commander Horace Elmer, Lieut, Charles H. Kuchelmer will act as Judge Advacate.

Lieut. Charles H. Kuchelmer will act as Judge Advocate.

It was remarked at the navy yard yesterday that the membership of the court did not include a civil engineer. This was commented on, as most of the testimony will be of a technical nature. An explanation advanced was that only two civil engineers in the navy. P. C. Asserson and M. T. Endicott, are the seniors of Mr. Menocal, and therefore eligible to sit in judgment over him, and that both of them have had, at one time or another, supervision of the work on the dock.

Three specific charges of carelessness, negligence, and inefficiency are made, and there are fifteen specifications. No charge of fraud or collusion with the contractors is made.

POSTAL SAVINGS BANKS. Steidenthal Wants Them Established in Kan-

sas Under State Direction TOPEKA, Kan., March 11.-Bank Commis sioner Breidenthal is preparing a bill to submit at the next session of the Legislature providing for the establishment of postal savings banks. to be under the direction of the State and palterned after the proposed Government postal savings bank. Commissioner Bredenthal be fleves that a large per cent, of the surplus money in the State is stored away because of lack of confidence in the present backs, which would become a part of the circulating medium of the State if postal savings banks were in operation.

of the state it posts of the placing all building and ioan companies and trust companies under the supervision of the State Bank Commissioner is also being propared.